



Birmingham Theological Seminary

Curriculum Review & Development
PT 5641

Time: Monday, 7:30-9:30 p.m.
Room: A-202, Briarwood Presbyterian Church
Instructor: Dr. Edward Waldron, III
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Course Description:

This course will be divided into three parts. For the first few weeks, we will engage the philosophies which have contributed to the modern patterns and worldviews which presently form education and classroom development. The second part of the course will then ascertain what constitutes a Christian approach to curriculum. After these two modules, our course will culminate with the practical application and usage of principles and philosophies learned. Throughout this course, the emphasis will always be development of Christian doctrinal understanding in academy, and what this means for the future of the student, the church, and the glory of God.

Textbooks

- 1.) *Can Man Live Without God?* by Ravi Zacharias (we will focus on Parts I & II, an Appendix B - however, we will read the whole volume.)
- 2.) *Walking with God in the Classroom: Christian Approaches to Teaching and Learning* by Haro Van Brummelen. Purposeful Design Publications; 3rd edition
- 3.) *On Christian Teaching: Practicing Faith in the Classroom* by David I. Smith. Eerdmans
- 4.) *A Theology for Christian Education*: Estep, Anthony & Allison. B&H Academic.

One book which will be referred to *Renewing Minds: Serving Church and Society Through Christian Higher Education* by David Dockery

Course Objectives

The student who completes this course will be able to:

- ❖ Be familiar with the principles which are generally brought to the practice of Education
- ❖ Be able to engage those principles which are not couched in the Christian worldview through sound reasoning and doctrine
- ❖ Be familiar with some of the more important theological terms and concepts and thus better equipped to understand and engage intelligently in theological discussion on education
- ❖ Be spiritually enriched through an encounter with the works of Christian educators

Course Goals:

These objectives bring us to three overarching goals.

1. To become more faithful interpreters of God's Word
2. To become better servants of the Lord in the classroom, for the immediate benefit of the Student's future, and ultimately for the glory of God
3. To apply — fully, and faithfully — the history, principles, and theology which couch Christian education's importance for the purpose of bringing the unsaved to the saving work of the Cross.

Class Calendar

January 27 - Introduction to the Course & Expectations

February 3 - Zacharias, Can Man Live Without God? Pay attention to the Appendix B especially.

February 10 - Post-Modernity and its impact on Education

February 17. -Estep, et. al.; Chapters 1 & 2

February 24 - Missions Week. No Class. Reading: Estep et. al.; Chapters 3 & 4

March 2 - Estep et. al.; Chapter 6 and Chapter 11.

March 9 — What Constitutes Christian teaching? Pre-Reformation and Post Reformation ideas on Christian Education

March 16 — What does it mean to teach Christianly?

March 23 - Van Brummelen, Shaping the Curriculum - Chapter 3; Smith pp. 1-40

March 30 - Van Brummelen, Prepare for Meaningful Learning - Chapter 4; Smith, pp. 54-80

April 6. - Assessing to Enhance Student Learning - Chapter 5 - But a twist: Assessing the Assessor/Teacher, Smith pp. 68-96

April 13. - Van Brummelen, How can we Develop Schools that at Supportive of Learning Communities - Chapter 7 & 8; Smith pp. 97-127

April 20 - Final Class. Engage.

Grades:

1.) Class Discussion - 25% You will be assigned to lead a class discussion. Your grade will be based off of your ability to ask questions of your peers, elicit responses, usage in practical ministry

2.) Critique of Zacharias & Estep et. al. Chapters 1 & 2 - 25% - 5 page minimum, according to BTS Paper standards. Rubric will be given in class. Due date will be announced in class.

3.) Final Paper: 50% — 15 page minimum. Written to BTS standards.

Write a Program of how you

- a.) Plan to incorporate the philosophies of Christianity into your own personal ministry at school,
- b.) Plan to use this knowledge in preparation (with practical examples marrying Scripture passages to your learning)
- c.) how you will incorporate this into bringing lost people to Christ